



Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #1: Monday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee | Deschutes County Oregon](#).

I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor, Oregon Department of Agriculture. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Jen Patterson, County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; and Ethan O'Brien

II. Approval on June 26, 2023 Minutes

Donna Arives moved to approve the minutes. Johnny Leason seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Presentation on Committee Grant Process

Sunny Summers presented an overview of committee policies and processes. June 2011 House passed HB 3560 which authorized the establishment of ODFW's Wolf Plan by creating a cooperative program that reduces conflicts between wolves and livestock. Grants are available for payment for livestock and/or working dogs killed, missing or injured by wolves and to those who use methods to prevent wolves from attacking livestock. Counties that received grants in 2023 was predominantly eastern, and south eastern counties. In 2023 the State dropped all grant requests to \$100,000 per County and paid out for preventative as well as for depredation and injured requests. State is funding the program at \$1.2 million for 23-25 biennium, Sunny will get back to the Committee if the money can roll over or gets clawed back at the end of the biennium. Grant applications open around February of each year. Grant applications are due in the spring and reporting for funds spent is due at the end of the year. Compensation grant funds are retroactive preventative funds are for future measures. Ongoing yearly preventative measures include things such as Range Riding and digging carcass holes. Onetime expenses can include flaggery (every few years) and drones.

IV. Establish Priority Funding Procedure and Compensation Rates

Committee members reviewed 2022 compensation rates from Klamath, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties. Discussed that different concepts including: basic rate per animal, variable rate based on market value, livestock yard rates, fair and consistent rates, market rate plus 10-15% fee to accommodate for fluctuating pricing, in January look at average pricing for 2023 and use that for determining rates, or using the basis that Umatilla developed. Central Oregon Livestock Auctions will have livestock pricing – potentially might be able to provide

an average rate for 2023 around Deschutes County or choose the first day of each quarter for the going rate in each category and then . State prioritizes paying out depredation requests first and almost always pays full grant requests for depredation/injured livestock.

- a. Calves (0-600 pounds)
- b. Yearlings (600-900 pounds)
- c. Butcher animal (900-1200 pounds)
- d. Cows (1200+ pounds, use weight of calculation of 1500 pounds)
- e. Bulls
- f. Heifers
- g. Lambs
- h. Ewes
- i. Any produces who feels their livestock are worth more than fair market value need to provide detailed information justifying their clam

V. Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee

Committee discussed representatives from the following categories:

Eco/Tourism

Supply chain for livestock

Feedlot owners

Livestock producer

Feed and farm store supplier

Herding dog breeder

Large animal vet

Real estate

Resource Management Consultant

Grant writers

Author/researcher/writer

VI. Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee

Individual committee members reached out to several different interested parties. Several people declined to be nominated. Owner/managers from Wanderlust Tour would be interested in serving on the committee. During the original committee application a couple of researchers/writers of wolf biology submitted resumes, Jen will share writing samples with the committee members. A vet could bring knowledge and experience to the committee, Ethan and Donna will reach out to a large animal vet so gauge interest. Johnny will reach out to one or two people who own a small farm to gauge interest. Jen will pull all interested parties information together by the end of November and email out to committee members to review and rank priority of potential committee members. Ideally the group will have recommendations and be able to go before the Board for approval before the next committee meetings.

VII. Public Comments

No public comments.

Next steps:

Grant recommendations, two additional committee members, preventative measures discussion with other county committee, invite ashanti.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services